

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

3 December 1946

Country: USSR

Subject: First Post-war Course for Foreign Officers at the Military Academy in Moscow

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1. Organization of the first post-war course for foreign officers now being run by the Military Academy in Moscow [redacted] Comment: This is probably the Dzerzhinski Academy in Moscow [redacted]

The course was originally planned to take six months, but was later increased to ten months. It started on 21st April 1946 and is divided into three terms of which the second started on 18 October.

2. Attendance was at first to be limited to forty foreign officers from the following countries: Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Yugoslavia.
3. Actually thirty-seven officers from the following countries are now attending: Albania, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. The Albanian party consists of seven officers, headed by a Brigadier; the Czechoslovak group numbers eleven, and the Yugoslav nineteen, of whom two are Generals. Only officers of field rank are attending this course.
4. Candidates are selected through the Military Missions or Military Attaches of the countries interested. Particular data on candidates have to be submitted in very great detail and are scrutinized by the Political Department of the Ministry of War in Moscow, whose choice is arbitrary and final.

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5. The curriculum comprises the following topics:

- a. Theory: 30 hours per week
- b. Practical instruction: 30 hours per week

6. The course is a strenuous one, involving an average working day of 12 hours. The practical instruction takes the form of field trips to separate units and to industrial and scientific establishments. The students are shown the means of production and development of the material needed for modern warfare on a grand scale.
7. The staff at this course for foreign officers is composed for the most part of old professors, who held military rank in Tsarist days. The younger teachers are in a minority. Outstanding among the younger ones, both as regards personality and knowledge, is Colonel Brumia, who was a regular officer throughout the war and a member of Marshal Malinovsky's staff at the time of the liberation of Prague.
8. On the theoretical side, emphasis is laid on the classical strategy of Suvorov, Kutusov and Brusilov, which involved the enticement of the enemy far into the country and his annihilation by means of vast encircling movements. The defense of Stalingrad is analyzed in great detail and compared with other defensive battles fought by the Allies and Germans during the war. The mass of historical data of the last war collected by the Russians on this subject is overwhelming and staggers the students of the course.
9. Theoretically the course, though very comprehensive, started on an elementary level and the Professors were surprised at the advanced knowledge of their foreign pupils.
10. Both the theory and practice of the course is primarily designed to demonstrate and teach defensive warfare.
11. Foreign officers taking the course are housed in the building of the Academy and draw rations and all other supplies from the Russian Army. In the past, the food has been of indifferent quality and has caused sickness (dysentery and skin troubles).
12. The foreign officers are segregated from the Russian students of the Academy and from the Russian teaching staff, except when members of the latter are specially selected to meet them in rather formal surroundings. On such occasions the Russians avoid political and even military discussions and are seldom drawn into expressing an opinion or stating a point of view. Among the foreign officers, the Yugoslavs are specially favored.

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13. Informant has been much struck by the sustained effort which is being made to keep industry, particularly heavy industry, on production of war material. High priority peace requirements, such as agricultural machines, tractors and motor cars, are shelved in favor of continued production of war materials. The drive is for more and better material for delivery at an early date.
14. Basing his estimate on a thorough knowledge of the Moscow region, in which informant has visited numerous factories and technical establishments, and on his less recent but wider knowledge of conditions throughout European Russia during the war, informant considers:
 - a. That for the next two years, the Russians will not be in a position to wage war;
 - b. That at the end of five years they will be ready to do so, and will prove a tough proposition, though ultimately defeated;
 - c. That at the end of ten years they will be invincible.
15. Informant does not consider Russia has any immediate aggressive designs, but believes the Russians are really apprehensive about their own security and deeply - irrevocably, in informant's opinion - distrustful of the intentions of the western world towards them. Hence the rulers of Russia are out to build the most powerful military machine they can in the shortest possible time.
16. Scientifically they are also progressing and are approaching the secret of the atom bomb. But even when they obtain the secret and arrive at the manufacturing stage, source thinks that the emphasis will still remain on large land armies and the orthodox strategy open to a country with the vast hinterland Russia possesses.

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